

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 179039
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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

INFO AMCONSUL KARACHI PRIORITY 5187

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 179039

FOR RCO

FOLLOWING REPEAT AMMAN 5887 ACTION STATE INFO ATHENS NAIROBI
JULY 12.

QUOTE O N F I D E N T I A L AMMAN 05887

ATHENS FOR ATO

NAIROBI FOR RSS

TO ASSISTANT SECRETARY FOR ADMINISTRATION JOHN THOMAS FROM
PICKERING

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: ASEC, AFOP, AFAC

SUBJECT: TERP COMMUNICATIONS PROBLEMS

REF: (A) AMMAN 5554, (B) 77STATE A3952, (C) STATE 143202,
(D) AMMAN 5123, (E) AMMAN 5194, (F) ATHENS 4888, (G)
STATE 150206

1. I WOULD LIKE TO REQUEST YOUR ASSISTANCE IN HELPING US
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SOLVE A REMAINING PROBLEM IN THE RECENTLY-INSTALLED TERP
COMMUNICATIONS HERE. DESPITE OUR REPEATED REQUESTS OVER
THE PAST MONTH, WE HAVE NOT YET BEEN ABLE TO ACHIEVE A
RESPONSE FROM THE DEPARTMENT FOR OUR REQUESTS TO FIND A WAY
TO PERMIT US OVERNIGHT STORAGE OF CLASSIFIED TRAFFIC.

2. PROBLEM CONSISTS OF FOLLOWING: THERE WAS A BASIC FLAW IN

THE PLANNING OF OUR TERP INSTALLATION BECAUSE INSTALLATION TEAM DID NOT HAVE AUTHORITY TO PERMIT OVERNIGHT STORAGE OF CLASSIFIED TELEGRAPHIC TRAFFIC WITHOUT THE INSTALLATION OF A SONIC ALARM DEVICE WHICH WAS NOT PROGRAMMED TO ACCOMPANY THE TERP EQUIPMENT. WITH TERP INSTALLATION WE LOST ONE OF OUR TWO CIRCUITS, WHICH IN EFFECT (SINCE TERP IS LIKE OUR PREVIOUS SYSTEM WITH ONLY 75 BAUD FOR INCOMING TRAFFIC) HAS CUT ONE-HALF THE SPEED WITH WHICH WE RECEIVE INCOMING TELEGRAMS. WE HAD THOUGHT THIS COULD BE ADEQUATELY COMPENSATED FOR BY ALLOWING AUTOMATED TERP SYSTEM TO RECEIVE TELEGRAMS CONTINUOUSLY OVERNIGHT. ALTHOUGH DEPARTMENT DID PERMIT RECEIPT OF UNCLASSIFIED TELEGRAPHIC TRAFFIC OVERNIGHT, IT DID NOT PERMIT RECEIPT OF CLASSIFIED TRAFFIC UNTIL THERE WAS INSTALLED A SONIC ALARM DEVICE. WE WERE TOLD AT ONE POINT THAT WE WOULD HAVE A TECHNICIAN INSTALL IT AROUND MID-JULY BUT THERE HAS BEEN NOTHING TO CONFIRM THIS. IT SHOULD HAVE BEEN INSTALLED IN EARLY JUNE ALONG WITH THE REST OF THE SYSTEM.

3. AS A RESULT, WE OFTEN FIND DELAYS OF MORE THAN 24 HOURS IN RECEIPT OF TELEGRAPHIC TRAFFIC. WITH THE LEBANESE SITUATION AND OTHER FAST-BREAKING MIDDLE EAST DEVELOPMENTS, THIS HAS SOMETIMES IMPEDED RECEIPT OF INSTRUCTIONS AND ADVERSELY AFFECTED OUR TIMELINESS IN GETTING TO THE JORDANIAN GOVERNMENT ON THESE ISSUES. WE VERY MUCH NEED TO HAVE OVERNIGHT STORAGE OF CLASSIFIED TELEGRAMS IN ORDER TO

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BE ABLE TO RESPOND TO THE DIPLOMATIC REQUIREMENTS DURING THIS PERIOD WHICH WE ANTICIPATE ARE GOING TO BECOME EVEN MORE SIGNIFICANT IN THE COMING WEEKS.

4. WE HAVE SUGGESTED THAT THE PRESENCE OF THREE LOCKED VAULT DOORS IN THE EMBASSY STRIKES US AS SUFFICIENT TO PROTECT THE INTEGRITY OF THE CLASSIFIED TRAFFIC DURING THE OVERNIGHT PERIOD. HOWEVER, IF DEPARTMENT FEELS THAT THESE ARE NOT SUFFICIENT, WE REQUEST AT LEAST THE IMMEDIATE ARRIVAL HERE OF A TECHNICIAN TO INSTALL THE SONIC ALARM. I DO NOT UNDERSTAND WHY IT WAS NOT INCLUDED ON THE INITIAL INSTALLATION TEAM AND REQUEST YOUR EXPEDITIOUS CONSIDERATION OF HELPING US CLEAR UP THIS PROBLEM. I REGRET RAISING THIS WITH YOU BUT OUR EFFORTS AT LOWER LEVELS HAVE NOT BEEN SUCCESSFUL. MANY THANKS FOR YOUR AUR ASSISTANCE. PICKERING

UNQUOTE CHRISTOPHER

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